

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 9 and 10, amend claims 1-8 and 11-19, and add new claims 25 and 26 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A multi-layer record carrier provided with at least two substantially parallel information layers ~~(6, 8)~~ and ~~suitable to be~~ capable of being scanned by a single scanning device ~~(10)~~, wherein data is written in units of data blocks on  
5 tracks of said at least two information layers, a first guard field being written at ~~the~~ a start of a data block and a second guard field being written at ~~the~~ an end of said data block, characterized in that  
said first and second guard fields have lengths such that ~~the~~ an  
10 end position of said second guard field of a preceding data block is located within ~~the~~ an area of said first guard field of a succeeding data block.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The multi-layer record carrier ~~according to as claimed in~~ claim 1, wherein the lengths of said  
first guard field and of said second guard field are selected such that those parts of said first guard field and of said second guard  
5 field which do not overlap each other have a predetermined minimum length.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The multi-layer record carrier  
~~according to~~ as claimed in claim 1, wherein a predetermined preamble  
pattern is written between said first guard field and said data  
block, and a predetermined postamble pattern is written between  
5 said data block and said second guard field.

4. (Currently Amended) A multi-layer record carrier ~~provided~~  
~~with~~ having at least two substantially parallel information layers  
~~(6, 8)~~ and ~~suitable to be~~ capable of being scanned by a single  
radiation beam generated by a scanning device ~~(10)~~, wherein data is  
5 written in units of data blocks on tracks of said at least two  
information layers ~~(6, 8)~~, a first guard field being written at ~~the~~  
a start of a data block and a second guard field being written at  
~~the~~ an end of said data block,  
characterized in that  
10 said first and said second guard field each have a predetermined  
minimum length which is approximately equal to the sum of half the  
diameter of the radiation beam in the upper one of said at least  
two information layers ~~(6, 8)~~ when ~~focussed~~ focused on the lowest  
one of said at least two information layers ~~(6, 8)~~, and a maximum  
15 allowed misalignment between the two information layers.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The multi-layer record carrier  
~~according to~~ as claimed in claim 1, wherein said first and said

second guard fields contain dummy data for overwriting previously recorded data.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The multi-layer record carrier ~~according to~~ as claimed in claim 4, wherein said length of said first and of said second guard field is equal in said at least two information layers ~~(6, 8)~~.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The multi-layer record carrier ~~according to~~ as claimed in claims 4, wherein a gap portion is provided between said second guard field and a header area succeeding said second guard field and/or between said first guard  
5 field and a header area preceding said first guard field, ~~wherein~~ the length of the gap portion ~~is~~ being greater than or equal to said predetermined minimum length.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The multi-layer record carrier ~~according to~~ as claimed in claim 7, wherein said length of said gap portion is equal in said at least two information layers ~~(6, 8)~~.

9-10. (Cancelled).

11. (Currently Amended) A method for recording data on a multi-layer recording carrier ~~(1)~~ ~~provided with~~ having at least two

substantially parallel information layers~~(6, 8)~~, said method comprising the steps:

- 5 a) ~~a first writing step of~~ writing the data in units of data blocks on tracks of said at least two information layers~~(6, 8)~~,<sub>i</sub> and
- b) ~~a second writing step of~~ writing a first guard field at the start of a data block and writing a second guard field at the  
10 end of a data block<sub>7, 1</sub>

characterized in that the method further comprises the step:

- c) ~~a setting step for~~ setting the lengths of said first and of said second guard field such that the end position of said second guard field of a preceding data block is located within the  
15 area of said first guard field of the succeeding data block.

12. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The method according to as claimed in claim 11, wherein said setting step is performed such that those parts of said first and of said second guard field which do not overlap each other are set to have a predetermined minimum length.

13. (Currently Amended) A method for recording data on a multi-layer record carrier~~(1)~~ by scanning the record carrier ~~by~~ with a single radiation beam, said record carrier ~~provided with~~ having at least two substantially parallel information layers~~(6, 8)~~, said  
5 method comprising the steps:

a) ~~a first writing step of~~ writing said data in units of data blocks on tracks of said at least two information layers ~~(6, 8)~~, and

b) ~~a second writing step for~~ writing a first guard field at the start of a data block, and a second guard field at the end of a data block, characterized in that the method further comprises the step:

c) ~~a setting step for setting~~ the length of said first and of said second guard field to be greater than or equal to a predetermined minimum length which is approximately equal to the sum of half the diameter of the radiation beam in the upper one of said at least two information layers ~~(6, 8)~~ when ~~focussed~~ focused on the lowest one of said at least two information layers ~~(6, 8)~~, and a maximum allowed misalignment between the two information layers.

14. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The method according to ~~as claimed in~~ claim 11, wherein said method further comprising ~~comprises~~ the step of:

\_\_\_\_\_ writing dummy data into said first and said second guard field.

15. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The method according to ~~as~~ claimed in  
claim 13, wherein said method further comprising comprises the step  
of:

\_\_\_\_\_ setting said length of said first and of said second guard  
5 field to be equal in said at least two information layers ~~(6, 8)~~.

16. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The method according to ~~as~~ claimed in  
claim 13, wherein the record carrier ~~comprising comprises~~ a gap  
portion provided between said second guard field and a header area  
succeeding said second guard field and/or between said first guard  
5 field and a header area preceding said first guard field, and  
wherein the method further ~~comprising comprises~~ the step of:

\_\_\_\_\_ setting the length of the gap portion so as to be greater  
than or equal to said predetermined minimum length.

17. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The method according to ~~as~~ claimed in  
claim 16, wherein said method further comprising comprises the step  
of:

\_\_\_\_\_ setting said length of said gap portion to be equal in  
5 said at least two information layers ~~(6, 8)~~.

18. (Currently Amended) A recording apparatus for recording  
data on a multi-layer record carrier ~~(1) provided with~~ having at

least two substantially parallel information layers~~-(6,8)~~, said recording apparatus comprising:

- 5 a) a recording unit~~-(10)~~ for writing said data in units of data blocks on said multi-layer record carrier~~-(1)~~, wherein a first guard field is written at the start of a data block and a second guard field at the end of a data block~~,—;~~ and
- b) control means ~~-(36)~~ for controlling said recording unit
- 10 ~~-(10)~~ so as to write said data blocks and said first and second guard fields on tracks of said at least two information layers~~-(6,8)~~,
- characterized in that said control means controls said recording unit ~~-(10)~~ ~~is driven~~ so as to write said first and said second guard
- 15 fields with a length such that the end position of said second guard field of a preceding data block is located within the area of said first guard field of the succeeding data block..

19. (Currently Amended) A recording apparatus for recording data on a multi-layer record carrier ~~-(1)~~ ~~provided with~~ having at least two substantially parallel information layers~~-(6,8)~~, said apparatus comprising:

- 5 a) a radiation source ~~-(11)~~ for generating a radiation beam~~,;~~
- b) a recording unit ~~-(10)~~ for writing said data in units of data blocks on said multi-layer record carrier~~-(1)~~ using said radiation beam, wherein a first guard field is written at the start

of a data block and a second guard field is written at the end of a  
10 data block,—;\_and

c) control means ~~(36)~~for controlling said recording unit  
~~(10)~~so as to write said data blocks and said first and second  
guard fields on tracks of said at least two information layers—~~(6,~~  
~~8)~~,  
15 characterized in that said control unit controls said recording  
unit ~~(10) is driven~~so as to write said first and said second guard  
fields with a length greater than or equal to a predetermined  
minimum length which is approximately equal to the sum of half the  
diameter of the radiation beam in the upper one of said at least  
20 two information layers—~~(6, 8)~~ when ~~foeussed~~focused on the lowest  
one of said at least two information layers—~~(6, 8)~~, and a maximum  
allowed misalignment between the two information layers.

20. (Withdrawn) A method of manufacturing a multilayer record  
carrier (1) provided with at least two substantially parallel  
information layers (6, 8), comprising the step of performing an  
alignment of said at least two information layers (6, 8) by  
5 measuring and aligning alignment marks at predetermined measuring  
points (M1 to M6).



21. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 20, further comprising the step of performing said measurement and alignment optically by using a camera device.

22. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 20, wherein said alignment marks are header areas provided on said at least two information layers (6, 8).

23. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 22, wherein said header areas are arranged to form header spokes, and said measuring points comprise a first point (M2) located on an inner diameter and a second point (M2) located on an outer diameter of a single header spoke and third point (M3) located on a spoke arranged at an angle of 90° with respect to said single header spoke.

24. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 22, wherein said header areas are arranged to form header spokes, and said measuring points comprise a first point (M4) and a second point (M6) located at the outer diameters of two opposite header spokes and a third point (M5) located on a spoke arranged at an angle of 90° with respect to said two opposite header spokes.

25. (New)            The multi-layer record carrier ~~according to~~ as  
claimed in claim 4, wherein said first and said second guard fields  
contain dummy data for overwriting previously recorded data.

26. (New)            The method as claimed in claim 13, wherein said  
method further comprises the step of:

                      writing dummy data into said first and said second guard  
fields.